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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Before the  
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
Washington, DC 20554

In the Matter of	)	
	)	
Amendment of Section 2.106 of	)	ET Docket No. 93-59
the Commission's Rules to	)	RM-8092
Allocate Spectrum for	)	
Wind Profiler Radar Systems	)	

REPLY COMMENTS OF NORTH AMERICAN TELETRAC  
AND LOCATION TECHNOLOGIES

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Dated: July 15, 1993

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**DISCUSSION**

- A. There Is A Significant Likelihood That Wind Profilers Operating In The 900 Band Could Cause**

The potential for harmful interference from high powered wind profiler radar systems into co-channel adjacent AVM systems is a very serious concern, particularly as AVM spectrum uses grow to meet the continued demands of businesses, governments and individuals.

-- Mark IV Comments at 2.

Hughes Aircraft Co. ("Hughes"), another AVM equipment vendor, also contends that Radian has simply failed to make a credible showing that its system will not interfere with ongoing AVM services.<sup>1</sup> Hughes Comments at 4-5.

Since there appears to be a significant potential for interference, further study is required and no action should be taken pending completion of the current AVM rulemaking.

**B. There Is No Showing Of Any Need For The Service Radian Proposes In The 900 Band**

Teletrac's Comments noted that there was no evidence in the record showing any demand for the allocation proposed by Radian. Teletrac Comments at 3-4. The record continues to be silent on the issue of a need for this service. NOAA noted that its weather forecasting needs were best met by wind profilers at 449 MHz, but that it has occasional needs for wind profilers at 915 MHz. NOAA has sought and received approval from the IRAC to operate its wind profilers at 915 MHz, and plans to operate them primarily in rural areas. NOAA Comments at 5-6, 8. However,

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<sup>1</sup> Curiously, Radian claimed it would submit additional interference information in PR Docket No. 93-61 (Radian Comments at 9 n.2) even though it is in this proceeding that the FCC must evaluate wind profiler potential for interference. A review of Radian's June 29, 1993 comments in that docket shows that Radian has not provided that additional technical detail.

Federal Government plans to use this band for wind profilers cannot be taken as an indication that there is non-government demand for its use. The record contains two letters from Federal officials supporting the proposed allocation of 915 MHz for WPRS. See letter from Alan Thomas, Director, Environmental Research Laboratories, NOAA (filed June 16, 1993); letter from Desmond T. Bailey, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (filed June 16, 1993). These letters must be given little weight because these agencies do not need an FCC allocation for their research needs. The IRAC approval is sufficient to cover their needs. Government agency needs cannot be used as a basis for the FCC action that Radian requests.

Radian has submitted letters from the South Coast Air Quality District, which believes that 915 MHz wind profilers may provide data for forecasting air quality and modeling regional air pollution; the National Center for Atmospheric Research, which would use 915 MHz wind profilers for research on climate and meteorology topics; and the Pennsylvania State University, which would use 915 MHz wind profilers data in atmospheric forecasting models. These might appropriately be termed mere letters of interest. They are hardly sufficient to support a finding of user need.

**C. Wind Profilers Are Research Tools Best Licensed Under Part 5**

If there is one thing that is clear from this proceeding, it is that 915 MHz wind profilers would be used as research tools in connection with meteorological studies. But

radio systems used with research projects are appropriately licensed as experimental services under Part 5 of the FCC's Rules (47 C.F.R. Section 5.202(c)), not Part 90. Radian has received numerous licenses under Part 5 for wind profilers used in research projects. The most recent, for example, were granted in April 1993 and include call signs KO2XJN, KO2XIE and KO2XBR.<sup>2</sup> It would appear that Radian has encountered no problems in applying for and receiving these licenses.

It may be appropriate for the Commission to recognize experimental 915 MHz wind profilers by adopting specific technical rules in Part 5. That would be consistent with Section 5.108, which contains specific technical rules of wildlife tracking and ocean buoy tracking operations. Like wind profilers, such tracking devices are used in connection with research projects. We would not object to a further notice in this proceeding where detailed technical specifications (power limits, frequency stability, bandwidth, antenna specifications, etc.) could be developed and incorporated into Part 5. A further proceeding should be deferred until PR Docket No. 93-61 has been completed, so that interference from wind profilers into vehicle location systems can be adequately evaluated.

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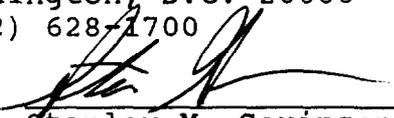
<sup>2</sup> We note that KO2XBR, licensed for Boulder, Colorado, would be used to support "frequency spectrum compatibility measurement and study." KO2XBR application, Exhibit 5. The Commission should defer action in this proceeding until the results of that study are entered into the record.

**CONCLUSION**

For the reasons stated above, the Commission should defer any action on 900 band wind profilers until the AVM rulemaking is completed and it is absolutely clear that wind profilers will not pose substantial interference for AVM systems.

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By: 

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Dated: July 15, 1993

**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I hereby certify that on this 15th day of July, 1993, a copy of the foregoing REPLY COMMENTS OF NORTH AMERICAN TELETRAC AND LOCATION TECHNOLOGIES was served by first class United States mail, postage prepaid, on the following parties:

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